

SOUTH AFRICAN RADIO LEAGUE NEWS FOR SUNDAY 22 MARCH 2020

Good morning and welcome to the weekly news bulletin of the South African Radio League read by [your name, call sign and QTH]

The South African Radio League broadcasts a news bulletin each Sunday in Afrikaans as well as in English at 08:15 and 08:30 Central African Time respectively on HF and various VHF and UHF repeaters around the country. The bulletin is relayed on Echolink by Johan, ZS6JPL. The audio and text bulletins may be downloaded from the League website at www.sarl.org.za. To join the bulletin mailing list, send an e-mail to the SARL Secretary.

In the news, today:

COVID-19, AMATEUR RADIO AND THE SARL

CORONAVIRUS: HOW IS THE IARU ADJUSTING TO COVID-19?

and

THE PROVISIONAL RESULTS OF THE SARL YL SPRINT

Stay tuned for more information on these and other interesting news items.

COVID-19, AMATEUR RADIO AND THE SARL

At the Council Meeting held on Wednesday 18 March 2020, the following was decided in terms of Rule 21.2.15 of the Constitution:

- a. That the National Convention be postponed until August.
- b. That the AGM and the Symposium be combined into one event.
- c. That the Budget and Subscriptions to be voted on by means of Electronic Voting (Rule 31 and 32).
- d. That members who have already paid for the 3 and 4 April event and wish to be refunded, contact Kelley at the National Amateur Radio Centre.

Further, Council decided that the preparation by clubs and candidates for the May RAE may continue at their own discretion. At the end of April, Council and the RAE Manager will make the appropriate decision regarding the RAE on 16 May based on the relevant health situation and any directives from the Government at that time. We will continue to update members in line with the latest developments.

CANCELLATION OF MEETINGS

The Chairman and Committee of the Cape Town ARC have decided to cancel the regular general meeting on 28 March due to Covid-19 concerns. The committee will, in the coming week, discuss future events and advise members and prospective guests accordingly.

The Secunda Radio Club has decided to postpone the ZS6SRC Field Week until further notice. The risks involved due to the corona virus is too big. It is for every-one's safety that this event is postponed. If you have any questions or queries, please feel free to contact Gert Botha, ZS6GC at gertb@cybersmart.co.za

CORONA VIRUS: HOW IS THE IARU ADJUSTING TO COVID-19?

Don Beattie, G3BJ provides an update on how the IARU is dealing, as of 19 March, with the restrictions now in place to slow the spread of COVID-19. On the IARU Region 1 site he writes that the ITU has cancelled some meetings, postponed others and converted still others into E-meetings with no in-person dimension. ITU Headquarters in Geneva is not accessible to visitors until 17 April at the earliest. IARU representatives are adjusting their plans accordingly.

The largest amateur radio gathering in Europe, Ham Radio in Friedrichshafen, Germany, is still scheduled for 26 to 28 June and plans are going forward for a two-part IARU stand, including a dedicated one for youth. Whether the event will take place is unknown at this time. The IARU Region 1 Executive Committee was scheduled to meet on 17 to 19 April. A series of virtual meetings will be held instead.

IARU Region 2 was planning workshops on Emergency Communications and Satellite Communications in Trinidad & Tobago on 30 and 31 May but has announced that the workshops will be held online instead. Interest and registrations have surged since the announcement. These workshops will be held in English but preparations are underway for workshops in Spanish to be held later.

IARU Region 3 has cancelled its first Youngsters on the Air (YOTA) Camp that had been planned for Rayong, Thailand, in early October.

Reminder: World Amateur Radio Day, April 18, is just a few weeks away! Help us celebrate amateur radio's contributions to society, the 95th anniversary of the founding of the IARU and that amateur radio is the best way to practice social distancing!

You are listening to a news bulletin of the South African Radio League.

THE PROVISIONAL RESULTS OF THE SARL YL SPRINT

Fifteen logs were received for the first leg of the SARL YL Sprint held on Sunday 8 March 2020. The full set of results can be found in HF Happenings 891.

1st place tied Alta Gaybba, ZR3PA and Sonet de Wet, ZS3SW - 196 points

3rd place Karin Andrew, ZS6MMA - 173 points

4th place Adele Tyler, ZS5APT - 161 points

THE SARL VHF/UHF RECORD TABLE

The SARL VHF/UHF Record Table has been updated, the newest version is dated 20 March 2020 and can be found at www.sarl.org.za/public/local/VHF_SA_Records.asp.

RSGB CONTEST RULES CHANGES

As a result of the UK government's recent advice on social distancing, the RSGB HF Contest and VHF Contest Committees have decided that, with immediate effect and until the end of June 2020, they will no longer accept multi-operator contest entries for any RSGB

Contest. Single operator entries from shared stations will also not be accepted, unless the station is being shared by family members living at the same postal address. In early June they will decide if the IOTA Contest and other events can go ahead as planned.

CLUB NEWS

The Kempton Park Amateur Radio Technical Society (KARTS) held their AGM this past Saturday 14 March 2020 and the newly elected committee is as follows:

Chairman: Stephen Stuttard, ZS6SKY

Vice Chairman: Corrie De Beer, ZS6CDB

Treasurer: Barry Els, ZS6OY

Secretary: Nico Pretorius, ZS6NMP

Unfortunately, the Overberg Amateur Radio Club will not be holding their AGM physically due to the health problems that could arise. We will try to do it via 80 m from 10:00 CAT on 28 March using 3,640 MHz or there about depending on band conditions and noise levels. 2 m is also an option if the repeater is working. Of course, there will be a virtual bring and braai!

PROPAGATION REPORT

Hannes Coetzee, ZS6BZP, reports that the solar activity is expected to remain at low levels. There are currently no sunspots visible. If you want to do your own frequency predictions, the expected effective sunspot number for the week will be around one. With the arrival of the equinox, the 15 to 30 m bands will, especially late afternoon, provide some good DX fun. There may even also be

some surprise 10 m openings. Please visit the website spaceweather.sansa.org.za for further information.

Finally, a diary of some upcoming events:

Today – the BARTG HF RTTY contest

28 and 29 March – the CQ WPX SSB Contest

2 April – The SARL 80 m QSO Party

4 April – The RaDAR Challenge

10 April – Good Friday

12 April – Easter Sunday

13 April – Family Day

14 April – provincial schools open

To conclude our bulletin, a quick overview of our main news item:

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The preparation by Clubs and candidates for the May RAE may continue at their own discretion. At the end of April, Council and the RAE Manager will make the appropriate decision regarding the RAE on 16 May. We will continue to update members in line with the latest developments.

This concludes our bulletin for this morning.

We invite clubs and individuals to submit news items of interest to radio amateurs and shortwave listeners, in both English and Afrikaans, if possible, by following the news inbox link on the South African Radio League web page. News items to include in the bulletin should reach the news team no later than the Thursday preceding the bulletin date.

You are welcome to join us every Sunday morning for the weekly amateur radio program, Amateur Radio Today at 10:00 Central African Time. The program can be heard on VHF and UHF repeaters countrywide and on 7 082 kHz lower side-band. A rebroadcast by Andy, ZS6ADY can be heard on Monday evenings at 19:30 Central African Time on 3 620 kHz. We welcome your signal reports, comments and suggestions; please send these by e-mail to artoday@sarl.org.za.

You have listened to a news bulletin compiled by Andy Cairns, ZS6ADY, edited by Paul Johnson ZS1S and read by

From the news team, best wishes for the week ahead.